

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,209
Amendment dated February 12, 2009
Reply to Office Action mailed September 29, 2008

REMARKS

As stated in the previous responses, the Applicants respectfully solicit the Examiner's acknowledgement of the formal drawings filed on December 5, 2003 as acceptable (e.g., by checking box 10(a) on Form PTOL-326 or other indication). In the Office Action mailed March 13, 2007, the Examiner assigned to the case at that time incorrectly objected to the informal drawings filed with the application on September 10, 2003 and overlooked the formal drawings filed on December 5, 2003.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-25, 27-30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-48, 50, 51, 53-62, 65 and 67-69 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 16, 22, 27, 35, 44, 47, 54 and 60 are independent. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 6, 7, 15-21, 27, 28, 35, 36, 38-43, 47, 48, 53-62, 65 and 67-69.

The Advisory Action mailed January 13, 2009 indicates that claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 22-25, 29, 30, 32, 33, 44-48, 50 and 51 remain rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claim 43 into independent form and cancels claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 22-25, 29, 30, 32, 33, 44-48, 50 and 51 without prejudice to expedite allowance of the application. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of these canceled claims in a continuation application.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment set forth above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and would appreciate early notification of the same.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 659-9076 if further issues remain with allowance of this case.

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Deposit Account Authorization

Although no additional fee is believed due by submission of this paper, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **18-2220** (Order No. 45716).

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 12, 2009



Stacey Longahecker
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 33,952

Customer No. 01609

ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, LLP
Suite 600
1300 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 659-9076
(202) 659-9344 (Fax)